

REMARKS

Applicants note request for an English translation of JP 7-259641. A translation will be provided as soon as it is available.

Claims 1-2 are cancelled. Claims 4 and 8 are re-written in independent form. Claims 3 and 5-7 are amended to correct dependency. New claims 11 and 12 are presented. Support for the new claims may be found at pages 12 and 15 and figures 4 and 8. No new matter is added.

Figures 9 and 10 are objected to for failing to include a legend "Prior Art". Corrected drawings are presented for Examiner's approval. Applicants request the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over JP 7-259641. Applicants traverse the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained.

Claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 3 and 5 are amended to depend from claim 4. Original claim 4 depends from original claim 1. Claim 4 is deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 4 is rewritten in independent form and therefore is allowable. Claims 3 and 5 are likewise allowable as depending from an allowable claim. Claim 9 depends from claim 5 and is also allowable for the reasons stated. Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 6-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over JP 7-259641 in view of Sokoloski (US 5,671,709). Applicants traverse the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained.

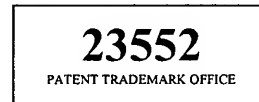
Claim 2 is cancelled. Claims 6 and 7 are amended to depend from claim 8. Original claim 8 depends from original claim 2. Claim 8 is deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 2. Claim 8 is rewritten in independent form and therefore is allowable. Claims 6 and 7 are likewise allowable as depending from an allowable claim. Claim 10 depends from claim 6 and is also allowable for the reasons stated. Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

2-17-05
Date

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 9 and 10. The legend "Prior Art" is added to Figs. 9 and 10.